

Ecology response for H/22/93515 113 UNDERWOOD ROAD, BISHOPSTOKE, EASTLEIGH, SO50 6FX

First floor side/rear extension following demolition of existing single storey side element, single storey rear extension, alteration to existing porch, removal of existing carport within driveway to reduction to front garden levels to provide car parking, bike storage and planting areas, alteration to fenestration and new entrance steps

Alex Stone

25/8/22

There are records of bats, grass snakes, slow worms and common toads very close to this property. The records of grass snakes, slow worms and common toads are in the allotment gardens to the east of the property.

Condition

During construction, if grass snakes, slow worms or common toads are found, to avoid harm, they should not be handled but be allowed to move away from the construction area on their own.

Construction materials must not be left in piles in the rear garden, so they do not attract grass snakes, slow worms, or toads to shelter in them. If any compost heaps need to be moved to enable the works, they must be dismantled by hand to ensure that grass snakes, slow worms or toads will not be harmed. Any excavations or pipes must either be covered at night or fitted with a small animal escape ramp to allow any animals that fall in to escape on their own.

Reason

To avoid harm to protected species of reptiles and amphibians.

Please could you add the following informative to the decision letter:

In the unlikely event of any bats being found during demolition or construction, all work must stop immediately, and Natural England must be informed. Additional information is available on the Bat Conservation Trust website at <https://www.bats.org.uk/advice/im-working-on-a-building-with-bats/ive-found-a-bat-during-works>.

Biodiversity enhancements will be required.

Additional information is available at:

<https://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/discover/in-your-garden/article/31>, planting for bats

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/plants-for-pollinators>

<https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/buildings-planning-and-development/bat-boxes>

<https://www.hampshireswifts.co.uk/nesting>

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/how-you-can-help-birds/nestboxes/nestboxes-for-small-birds/>

<https://www.swift-conservation.org/OurLeaflets.htm>

The addition of a swift nest box might be a reasonable enhancement. Swift nest boxes are best positioned under the eaves or on walls facing north, northeast or north-west out of direct sunlight, five metres above the ground, with clear adjacent airspace so swifts can access them in a high-speed direct flight. (<https://www.swiftconservation.org/Nestboxes%26Attraction.htm>). (Bat boxes should face south, south east or south west, so may not be possible on this site.)

Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist